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— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

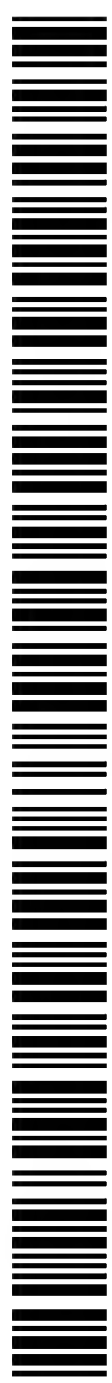
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR UTILIZING TICKETS TO PROGRESS GAME PLAY IN A GAMING MACHINE

(57) Abstract: A gaming system that allows a player to retain game assets earned during game play on a data storage medium (e.g., a paper ticket) for use in future gaming sessions. A game asset provides the player with an advantage for winning an award or for acquiring a larger award. The player receives the ticket during, or at the end of the player's gaming session. The player holds the ticket until his next gaming session, or may alternatively use the ticket in the same gaming session. At that time, the player may insert the ticket into the gaming machine's bill validator. The bill validator reads the tickets, and configures the game according to the game assets stored on the ticket.



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